

there's no doubt that if America stays the course and we call upon others to stay the course, liberty will arrive and the world will be better off.

The momentum of freedom in the Middle East is beginning to benefit women. That's what's important for this conference. A free society is a society in which women will benefit.

I want to remind you of what King Mohamed of Morocco said when he proposed a series of laws to protect women and their families. It's a remarkable statement. It's like he's put the stake in the ground for women's rights. He said, "How can society achieve progress while women, who represent half the nation, see their rights violated and suffer as a result of injustice and violence and marginalization, notwithstanding the dignity and justice granted to them by our glorious religion." It's a strong statement of freedom. He's right. America stands with His Majesty and others who share that basic belief. The future of Muslim nations will be better off for all with the full participation of women.

These are extraordinary times, historic times. We've seen the fall of brutal tyrants. We're seeing the rise of democracy in the Middle East. We're seeing women take their rightful place in societies that were once incredibly oppressive and closed. We're seeing the power and appeal of liberty in every single culture. And we're proud once again—this Nation is proud—to advance the cause of human rights and human freedom.

I want to thank you all for serving the cause. The cause is just, the cause is right, and the cause is good. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in the the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Karen Hughes, former Counselor to the President; Dr. Raja Habib Khuzai, member, Iraqi Governing Council; Shamim Jawad, wife of Said Tayeb Jawad, Afghanistan's Ambassador to the U.S.; Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy of Burma; and Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said and Minister of Higher Education Rawya bint Saud al-Bussaidi of Oman. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 6

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

At noon, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a lunch for President Fox and his wife, Marta Sahagun de Fox.

March 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Dallas, TX, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dr. Joann Sanders.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, where he attended the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and greeted the 2003 Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association champions.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate J. Bonnie Newman and Leighton Smith, Jr., as members of the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy.

March 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Arlington, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President met with Veterans of Foreign Wars commander-in-chief Edward S. Banas, Sr. He then participated in a photo opportunity with the winners of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Voice of Democracy Award.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tina Westby Jonas to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

The President announced his intention to designate Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., as Acting

Inspector General of the Social Security Administration.

March 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Cleveland, OH, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Judi Firestone. He then toured the Thermagon, Inc., manufacturing plant.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart Levey to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement in charge of overseeing the new Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Juan Carlos Zarate to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Finance.

March 11

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with King Juan Carlos I and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to express his condolences concerning the terrorist attack in Madrid earlier in the morning. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to East Farmingdale, NY, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Richard McKeon. Later, he traveled to Bay Shore, NY, where he toured U.S.A. Industries, Inc.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to East Meadow, NY, where he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Nassau County 9/11 Memorial.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands at the White House on March 16.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister

Bertie Ahern of Ireland to the White House on March 17.

The President announced his intention to nominate Romolo A. Bernardi to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas Hill Moore to be a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edwin D. Williamson to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lewis W. Lucke to be Ambassador to Swaziland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Earle I. Mack to be Ambassador to Finland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jackson McDonald to be Ambassador to Guinea.

The President announced his intention to nominate John M. Ordway to be Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

March 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile to discuss the situation in Haiti. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with winners of the White House News Photographers Association's "Eyes of History" contest. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph E. Brennan to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara J. Sapin to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack Dyer Crouch II to be Ambassador to Romania.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 11

Romolo A. Bernardi,
of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Alphonso R. Jackson.

Tina Westby Jonas,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), vice Dov S. Zakheim, resigning.

Lewis W. Lucke,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Earle I. Mack,
of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Jackson McDonald,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

Thomas Hill Moore,
of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of 7 years from October 27, 2002 (reappointment).

John M. Ordway,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Juan Carlos Zarate,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Kenneth Lawson, resigned.

Submitted March 12

Joseph E. Brennan,
of Maine, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2008 (reappointment).

Jack Dyer Crouch II,
of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

William H. Pryor, Jr.,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, vice Emmett Ripley Cox, retired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Mary J. Schoelen,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of 15 years, vice John J. Farley III, term expiring.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Released March 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released March 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: Opening New Markets for America's Workers

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the McConnell Center for Political Leadership, March 8